

Mansfield Public Schools

Board of Education Update

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Superintendent of Schools

Issue #21

March 2010

Information regarding the current status of the Mansfield Public Schools: items, issues, challenges, and opportunities district staff addressed during the month, as well as upcoming district and school events.

Enrollment

Gr.	GW		SE		VN		MMS		Total
		+/-*		+/-*		+/-*		+/-*	
PK	31	6/1	30	3/3	31	1/1			92
K	30	0/1	33	8/3	54	2/1			117
1	37	3/2	46	3/0	34	1/0			117
2	36	2/0	44	4/1	53	0/1			133
3	31	0/1	51	4/3	50	1/1			132
4	34	1/1	49	1/0	49	2/2	1		133
PK-4									724
5							138	4/1	138
6							150	5/1	150
7							144	3/2	144
8							141	2/0	141
# Boys	110		130		144		295		678
# Girls	89		123		127		279		615
Total	199	12/6	253	23/10	271	7/6	574	14/4	1297

*Entries/Withdrawals

- Home-school year to date total: 8 families with 12 students.

	GW	SE	VN	MMS	District
Immigrant Children*	5	3	1	2	11
ELL**	2	4	3	7	16

*Eligible immigrant children are defined as a) ages 3-21 enrolled full-time in school, b) not born in any state, c) have not been attending 1 or more schools in 1 or more states for more than 3 full academic years.

**English Language Learners

Connecticut Mastery Test – Fourth Generation Results

#/% of students at/above goal – March 2009

Grade	Math	Writing	Reading	Science
3 – 133	113/85.0%	86/72.2%	98/73.7%	-----
4 – 124	100/83.3%	92/74.2%	91/75.8%	-----
5 – 137	97/71.3%	99/72.3%	101/73.7%	110/80.3%
6 – 141	113/80.1%	109/77.9%	120/85.7%	-----
7 – 136	105/78.4%	110/80.9%	116/87.2%	-----
8 – 160	131/81.9%	139/86.9%	138/86.8%	142/88.8%

- Students not reaching goal in one or more areas: (2009-2010 grade)

Gr. 4 – 47/35.3%	Gr. 7 – 44/31.2%
Gr. 5 – 49/39.5%	Gr. 8 – 40/29.2%
Gr. 6 – 63/46.0%	Gr. 9 – 42/26.0%

Budget

- Food Service Comparison:

Sept., 2008-March, 2009		Sept., 2009-March, 2010	
Paid Meals	Total Meals	Paid Meals	Total Meals
59,798	101,136	63,092	101,947

Personnel

	Certified	Non-Certified
Retirements	0	0
Resignations	0	1
Requests for Leave	0	0
New Hires	0	2
Reduction in Force	0	0

- Participated in Personnel Committee negotiations with UPSEU.
- Facilitated TEAM Committee meeting.
- Participated in Personnel Committee meeting with MEA Executive Board.
- Met with all non-tenured teachers before and after MBOE actions taken March 11, 2010.

District: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Including Instructional Technology Applications

- Conducted three administrative council meetings.
- Continued Study Island software program for all district grade 3 and 4 students to use both at school and at home.
- Facilitated a year two implementation plan for *Bridges in Mathematics*.
- Facilitated the plan for implementing Houghton Mifflin: *Legacy of Literacy*.
- Implemented a plan for in-class preschool music.
- Implemented district review and use of CBAS (CT Benchmark Assessment System) for grades 3-8 in Math & Reading.
- Initiated MyRTI assessment.
- Facilitated CMT testing and return of testing materials.
- Initiated external Support Services Evaluation in collaboration with Ashford, Willington, and Region 19.
- Reviewed draft RTI/SRBI policies & procedures with Administrative Council.
- Reviewed Title I entrance & exit criteria with administrators and consultants.

Policies

- Continued to implement MBOE Policies reflecting recent changes in legislature drafted by Shipman & Goodwin.
- Presented legal opinion of Town Personnel Committee draft policy regarding open and transparent government to MBOE.

Building and Grounds

- Continued to implement an alternative work order system.
- Attended MMS Fuel Conversion meetings regarding project implementation.
- Participated in School Building Committee meetings, presentation, and meeting with Town Council and MBOE
- Conducted Facilities Management meeting to address current issues.

Professional Development

- Supported March 22nd Professional Development Day.

Programs

Study Island Through March 27, 2010							
Grade 3				Grade 4			
Math		Reading		Math		Reading	
Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct
49,016	83.4	24,438	68.9	24,464	87.5	19,880	77.3

**Number of questions attempted on grade level*

Technology Administrative Applications

- Continued implementation of HealthOffice Software.
- Continued implementation of automated system for recording substitutes.
- Continued spread sheet submission of language arts assessments.
- Continued conversion to Horizon library system software.
- Supported training and development of PowerSchool software at MMS and Filemaker Pro/EASTCONN RTI software.
- Implemented new PowerSchool cafeteria software in all four schools.
- Continued implementation of MyRTI software program.
- Continued implementation of AlertNow software program for transportation issues.

Security

- Continued the implementation of new required crisis prevention drills for all schools with emergency management officials.
- Facilitated district planning for gas leak drill to be conducted in May.

Energy

- Implemented school building energy committees.
- Implemented guidelines for after school building use in an effort to reduce energy consumption.
- Reduced hall lighting in hallways in all 4 schools and some classrooms at MMS.
- Monitored use of energy efficient refrigerators to replace classroom use of small refrigerators.
- Initiated monitoring of gas heat & electric energy charges at MMS due to fuel conversion project.

Communication

- Facilitated taping and television scheduling of School Building Committee Informational Session.
- Distributed flier with Channel 13 dates/times of video of Building Committee Informational Session to via QNotify and "kid-mail".
- Distributed Dorothy Goodwin Bequest Fund reminders via school QNotify, "kid-mail" and USPS to homeschoolers and private schools.
- Conducted monthly meetings with bargaining unit leaders.
- Facilitated district Technology Committee meeting via video conference.
- Facilitated Professional Development Committee meeting.
- Updated Chamber of Commerce at State of Mansfield meeting.
- Facilitated Bus Drivers Breakfast.

Other

- Reviewed extension proposal from Durham School Services for bus transportation.
- Attended MAC (Mansfield Advocates for Children) meeting
- Attended EASTCONN Title III Consortium meeting.
- Attend Regional Staff Development Council meeting.
- Attended URSA and Hockanum Superintendents' meetings.
- Attended CAPSS Legislative and Technology Committee meetings.
- Attended Shipman and Goodwin Labor & Employment Spring Seminar.
- Attended Website Design tips for the Busy School Professional workshop at EASTCONN.
- Attended SDE RTTT Phase II Workshop.
- Attended Family Math Night at Goodwin School.

Additional information will be provided upon request by calling 429.3350 or by emailing mboesupt@mansfieldct.org.

Mansfield Public Schools Monthly Memorable Moments

Goodwin School

- Ann Dumont and Becky Doggett, from Goodwin's Food Services, were the winners in the Best Display and Best Dairy entry at the Connecticut Food Service Association Yankee Chapter conference. Ann and Becky served their famous Mickey Mouse Toasted Cheese and Berry *Goodwin* Smoothies at their booth titled Tropical Café.
- Goodwin's First and Second Graders showed off their musical and acting talents during performances of *Go Fish!* Hammerhead sharks, crabs, and a variety of other sea creatures swam and sang their way through this hour long production to the delight of their Goodwin friends and family.

Southeast School

- Tyler Olander, a former Southeast student, has been recruited by Coach Jim Calhoun to play for the UConn Men's Basketball Team. He spent the last four years playing for E.O. Smith High School. Tyler is 6 feet 9 inches. It's hard to imagine how a 3 ½ foot kindergartener could be almost 7 feet playing for the UConn basketball men's team. We can't wait to see Tyler on the Gampel basketball court. Go Tyler!
- Recently, students from the Green Thumbs Club, an environmentally oriented after school club, presented a skit on idling awareness to help educate PreK-4 students about the dangers of idling vehicles while parents drop off or pick up their children at Southeast. Through the request of a parent and Ginny Walton, Mickey Maheu, founder of the Green Thumbs Club, had the following third and fourth graders present the skit: Cyanne Landon, Annie Wang, Sarah Sommer, Ella Demers-Schiffler, Jalean Perrugoria, Katie Cranmer and Emma Powers.
- Fourteen school systems gathered this month for the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers (COLT) Rhyme Celebration at Smith Middle School in Glastonbury. Southeast was one of the schools representing Mansfield's elementary school Spanish program. Representing Southeast's Spanish program at the celebration were our Spanish teacher Diane Hutton and the following Southeast students, Keith Dixon, Leah Newmyer, Erica Oliver, Emma Powers, Sarah Sommer, Caitrin Spottiswoode, Calista Storrs, Gina Sydnie, Annie Wang and John Zhou. They performed songs, rhymes and/or chants in the language they study. This year's theme was Discover Languages, Discover Friendships.

Vinton School

- Terry's Turtles (Mrs. Terry's kindergarten class) presented a play based on the book *Tacky the Penguin* by Helen Lester. First the children performed a "dress rehearsal" for their third grade buddies. Then parents and staff were invited to attend one of two performances on Wednesday, March 31st. The children learned about all the necessary ingredients to make a play work successfully— making props & costumes, learning lines and reading scripts, and acting too!
- March is always a big month in the library. We celebrate the birthday and books of Dr. Seuss as well as participate in Read Across America. This year we also had a 'sleep over' with the Cat in the Hat! The children were invited to bring their stuffed animals to spend the night with the Cat in the library. The library mascot, Shelf Elf, took pictures of the event, and, as we came to find out, the animals did not remain in the library all night. Somehow the Cat even got into the principal's office! However, all 110 animals did enjoy themselves and were well behaved.

Vinton School continued

- This year 14 students from Grades 3 and 4 participated in the 19th annual Rhyme Celebration sponsored by the Connecticut Organization of Language Teachers (COLT) in Glastonbury, CT. Rhyme Celebration promotes children's enthusiasm for studying world languages and cultures. The emphasis is on celebrating rhymes in many languages and not on competition. This year's theme was "Discover Languages, Discover Friendship. Students acted out a poem in Spanish titled "Un Mundo Para Todos / One World For All." There were also five students who recited poems / chants in their heritage languages about friendship. Students performed in Greek, Swedish, Farsi and Urdu. Our students did an outstanding job and were so proud to represent Vinton School. There were students from all over Connecticut who performed in 18 languages. One student remarked, "Wow, I can't believe how many languages there are."

Mansfield Middle School

- Mrs. Ryley Zawodniak directed the MMS spring musical production of *Annie*. Many parent volunteers, community members and MMS staff members worked after school with the cast of 90 students to prepare for the production. Over 1500 audience members enjoyed the three performances during the weekend of March 26-28. The quality of the sets, costumes, and choreography – all enhanced by a pit orchestra led by music director Janet Jungden – set the stage for actors who made the audience forget that this was a middle school production. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this memorable show.
- Twenty-five MMS students participated in District History Day on Saturday, March 20. Nine were selected to advance to Connecticut History Day on Saturday May 8. The theme this year was *Innovation in History*. Claire Coffey and Meghan Powers won first place in Group Exhibits for their project, *Satisfaction Guaranteed: The Montgomery Ward Catalog*. In Individual Documentaries, third place went to Jonas Burkhard for *Savior to Millions: Dr. Edward Jenner's Smallpox Vaccine*. First place went to Hyun-Soo Kim for *Radio Broadcasting: Changing American Life*. In Group Documentaries, second place went to Joseph Phillips, Chris Briere, and Darius Javidi for *Radar: The Invention that Won the Second World War*. First place went to Lucia Pratto and Emily Tomanelli for *Antibiotics: Miracle Drug of the 20th Century*. All of these students have been invited to participate in the state-level competition in April.
- The MMS **MATHCOUNTS** team consisting of Eric Hong, Jonathan Huang, Franton Lin, Rachel Son and Samuel Li made it to the state competition. These five students all scored in the top 25% in the round for the Eastern Connecticut chapter, earning second place in the chapter. They finished eighth in state. Next year should be another great year, with all members returning except Franton Lin.
- Grade six students are participating in special activities on Tuesday afternoons this spring. Students chose enrichment groups that interested them, such as Digital Photography, Video Game Programming, Poetry, or Ropes Course. Other fun activities included Indoor Games, Book Discussion, Acting 101, Summer Camp Games, Indoor Games, Go Fly a Kite, Origami, Scrap-booking, and even Hiking. Grade 6 teachers, UConn interns, and instructional assistants all designed offerings based on their own skills, interests, and talents. There are about ten students in each group.

Upcoming Events in April:

Please join us at any/all of these events

GW	SE	VN
PK & K Music Concert 4/6/10 1:15pm 4/8/10 7:00pm	Ag Day Presentation Gr. 2 4/5/10	No TV Week/Book Fair 4/12-16/10
TV Turnoff Week 4/12-16/10	PTO Meeting 4/5/10 7:00pm	Bingo Night 4/12/10 6:30pm
Family Picnic & Playground Social 4/12/10 5:30pm	Science Center Gr. 3 FT 4/8/10	Zumba Night 4/13/10 6:30pm
BackPack Brigade 4/13/10 6:00pm	Character Education Assembly 4/16/10 2:30pm	Crafts Night 4/14/10 6:30pm
Family Sock Hop 4/16/10 6:00pm	TV Turnoff Week 4/26-29/10	Celebrate Vinton Assembly 4/15/10 1:30pm
PTO Meeting 4/28/10 6:30pm	Family Story Night 4/26/10 6:30pm	Read-In & Kickball Night 4/15/10 6:30pm
Arts Day 4/30/10	Talent Show 4/28/10 7:00pm	Invention Convention/Science Fair 4/27/10 12:00 and 7:00pm
	School Dance – Under the Sea 4/30/10 6:00pm	Assembly “The Golden Lyre” Gr. K-2 4/28/10 9:30am
		Assembly “Chariot of the Sun” Gr. 3-4 4/28/10 19:30am
MMS		
Sturbridge Village Gr. 6 FT 4/1/10	MMSA Meeting 4/6/10 7:00pm	Vex World Championship Robotics Team 4/20-25/10 Dallas, Texas
COLT Poetry Contest 4/27/10	Worcester Gr. 7 FT 4/28/10	Opera New England 4/30/10 10:00am & 12:00pm
Student Council Talent Show 4/30/10 2:45pm		
District		
Good Friday - Holiday 4/2/10	MBOE Policy Committee 4/5/10 4:30pm	MBOE Goodwin Bequest Committee 4/6/10 4:00pm Conf. Room B
Public Hearing on Town Budget 4/12/10 7:30pm Council Chambers	LWV/MAC Panel Presentation 4/13/10 7:00pm Council Chambers	Spring Vacation 4/19-23/10
MBOE Meeting 4/27/10 7:30 Council Chambers		
Town Budget		
Public Information Session #1 on Town Managers Budget 4/1/10 7:00pm Council Chambers	Public Hearing on Town Budget 4/12/10 7:30pm Council Chambers	Town Council/BOE Budget Workshop followed by MBOE Meeting 4/15/10 6:30pm Council Chambers
Public Information Session #2 4/21/10 7:00pm Buchanan Auditorium		